

New Web look, Current Water Numbers, and Wildfire Flood Management

Welcome to new readers that joined following our series of Pre-Season Flood Operations workshops, and various agency meetings this fall.

Hot off the presses! Expect a new look on the DWR website! Coming this week; an update to conform with other state websites for a nice, crisp look. The same address will work. <http://www.water.ca.gov/>

>From our State Climatologists office, the October climate summary
>should
be compiled and available by the end of the week.

<http://www.climate.water.ca.gov/>

Big highlight of the month was Eureka, which set a new daily rainfall record on Oct. 20, with 1.99". That is a record that had stood since 1899. Also, on October 5th, Bakersfield set a low maximum temperature record with 66 degrees (previous record was 68 from 1916). That means it had always gotten to 68 degrees or more on October 5th, until this year.

Our reservoirs are in good shape for flood control! That's the positive spin on low storage. For the weekly (or so) tally of reservoir storage, go to:
http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/current_conditions.pdf

For daily updates, use this link:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/current/RES>

Major reservoirs are at about half of their level of this time last year.

Seasonal precipitation varies greatly from north to south. The Northern Sierra 8-Station index is at 4.30", or 75% of seasonal average to date.

Here are a few other locales, and their respective percentages as of Nov. 14:

Sierraville	2.44"	47%
Eureka	7.24"	121%
Sacramento	1.97"	90%
Sonora	1.94"	37%
Bakersfield	0.47"	37%
LAX	1.19"	100%
San Diego	0.46"	40%

The forecast for this weekend is drier than previously hoped. There are model discrepancies as to how far south the storm track will come. But it looks like Oregon and Washington will get clobbered this weekend, while far Northern California will get

moderate rain on Friday night and Saturday. 1-80 can be a transition boundary between wet and dry, but this system could cut off even farther north than that. Sunday brings a chance for rain closer to the central part of the state; from the Bay across to Tahoe. However, the center of low pressure is so far north in the Gulf of Alaska that the Feather River has cancelled its hope for inch and a half. The forecast is now dry. Really doubt there will be much rain, other than at the North Coast. Beyond this weekend, the models dry out substantially. We may have a week or more of high pressure. Another So-Cal wind event is possible early to middle of next week. And Sacramentans, as well as most Californians will have a fair Thanksgiving.

A big concern this season from a flood perspective will be southern California. In burned watersheds, flooding and mudslides are more likely since the trees are gone. In many instances, very modest rainfall can create debris flow. In combination with earlier season Northern California wildfires, the total size of burn areas in the state adds up to over 1200 square miles. Recent areas are being surveyed by a multi-agency task force, into which DWR is rotating over a dozen hydrologists and engineers. River forecasters will take recent burns into consideration when issuing guidance, bulletins, and warnings this winter. As bad as the drought is, rainfall could be a hazard over those 14 watersheds. It may be years till they recover, so modeling of those rivers will continue to be adjusted for quite some time.

Would there be an interest in archiving these newsletters on our weather and climate websites? Please reply with your interest to elynn@water.ca.gov. It may be a while till that can happen, but we'll push for it if there is desire.

With nothing but the sound of water evaporating, we'll probably stick with the 2 week issuance for now. Look for another installment of this electronic newsletter on Wednesday, Nov. 28th. Thereafter, they will likely go out weekly, on either Wednesdays or Thursdays.

(EL)

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